(c) what steps are being taken by Government to get these places connected to main stream areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has emphasized with the State Governments on the need for improving connectivity to major tourist centres. The States have also been advised to send proposals for such connectivity to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for funding under their scheme of Central Road Fund. In addition, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has also been requested for improving the national highways connecting to major tourist centres in the country.

Development of tourist spots in Himachal Pradesh

†2254. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has submitted any schemes for the development of tourist spots during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of schemes sanctioned during the said period and the amount released to the State Government; and

(d) the progress made in these schemes so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with them every year for providing financial assistance under the schemes Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development and Large Revenue Generating Projects. Project proposals that are complete in all respect are processed on the basis of their inter-se priority and funds released, subject to their availability under the respective Head.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The details of financial assistance sanctioned/released for tourism related projects to the Government of Himachal Pradesh during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
	2004-05		
1.	Restoration & Revitalization of Heritage Hotel Castle Nagar (District Kullu) and Place Hotel Chail (District Chail)	500.00	400.00
2.	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit, Shimla	800.00	640.00
3.	Development of Kangra Circuit	800.00	640.00
4.	Development of Sirmour as Tourist Destination	500.00	400.00
5.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Naggar in Kullu District	20.00	16.00
6.	Upgradation of Website, production of CD-ROMS and VCDs	20.00	16.00
7.	Kullu Dussehra, 2004	5.00	5.00
8.	Shimla Summer Festival, 2004	5.00	5.00
9.	Tourism Conclave, 2004 at Shimla	15.00	15.00
10.	Paragliding Pre-World Cup, 2004 at Bir Billing in Kangra Valley	15.00	15.00
	2005-06		
1.	Construction of Tourist Reception Centre at Chauri Bihal, Manali.	30.24	24.00
2.	Paragliding Pre-World Cup, 2005 at Bir Billing in Kangra Valley	15.00	12.00

(d) Execution of the projects sanctioned under various schemes of the Ministry of Tourism is the responsibility of the State Governments/ UTs.

Development of tourism centres in Karnataka

2255. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested for financial assistance for the development of tourism centres in all districts of the State, including providing of resting points on the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and